



The Jewish

Gaily Forward

Adar+Nisan+Iyyar 5773 ■ March+April 2013

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

MARCH 4, 7:30 – 8:30 PM

Weekly Torah Portion Study

Join Rabbi Angel and Daniel Chesir for a siyyum, a celebration, marking the conclusion of the Book of Exodus and our class.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Pesach—Congregational 2nd night Seder, 5:00 pm

CSZ's "Home Made" Passover Seder is back for its eighth fabulous year! Celebrate Pesach with the CSZ community at our congregational second-night Seder, led by Cantor Sharon Bernstein. At this year's Seder, as in years past, you will have an opportunity to support MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. If you have the availability, please consider volunteering to help bring this Seder to life.

MONDAY, APRIL 1

Yizkor, 10:00 am

All are welcome to join CSZ as we hold Yizkor services, the service of remembrance. This is a beautiful service that is traditionally held on the seventh day of Passover. All are welcome to join the community to say Kaddish and honor your loved ones through the mitzvah of remembering.

(continued on page 4)

Hope, Faith and Fighting Climate Change

Tuesday, March 5, 7–9 pm

An evening with noted journalist and author, Mark Hertsgaard

Climate change is often seen as a political or economic issue, but for many of us this is also the primary moral and spiritual issue of our time. Please join us for an evening with Mark Hertsgaard, whose book *Hot: Living Through the Next Fifty Years on Earth* is both a heartfelt call for all of us to make a difference and a guidebook for how we can do so.

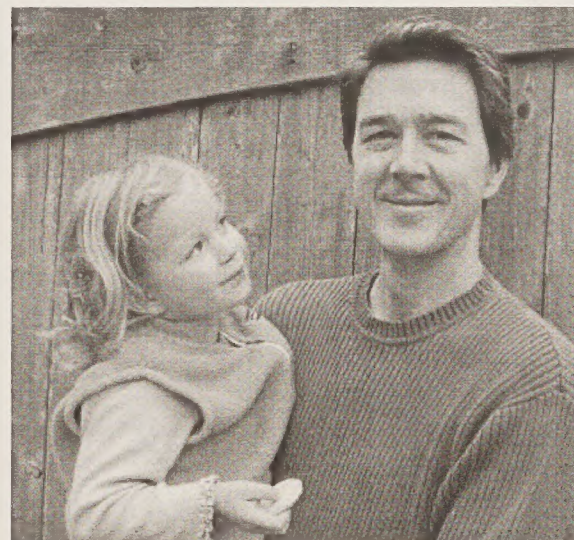
Mark has covered politics, culture, and the environment for many years in his six books and publications including the New Yorker, Vanity Fair, Newsweek, and the Nation, where he is the environment correspondent. He has co-founded a group called Climate Parents. You can watch a short video at <http://markhertsgaard.com/>

The enormity of the climate problem inspires our faith communities to band together, and this free event is sponsored by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and the First Mennonite Church of San Francisco. Please feel free to invite others in the Bay Area faith communities to this important evening.

For twenty years, Mark Hertsgaard has written about global warming for outlets including the New Yorker, Vanity Fair, Time, NPR, the BBC and The Nation. But the full truth did not hit home until he became a father and, soon thereafter, learned that climate change had already arrived a century earlier than forecast with impacts bound to worsen for decades to come. Hertsgaard's daughter Chiara, now seven years old, is part of what he has dubbed "Generation Hot"—the two billion young people worldwide who will spend the rest of their lives coping with mounting climate disruption.

HOT, Hertsgaard's latest book, is both a father's cry against climate change and a deeply reported blueprint for how all of us as parents, communities, companies and countries can navigate this unavoidable new era. Writing in the New York Times Book Review, Wen Stephensen called HOT a "significant contribution" that "raises the emotional stakes while keeping a clear head... [Hertsgaard] presents a strong case that there is still time to make an enormous difference."

Mark Hertsgaard, called "one of America's finest reporters" by Barbara Ehrenreich, is the author of five previous books that have been translated into sixteen languages, including *On Bended Knee: The Press and the Reagan Presidency* and *Earth Odyssey: Around the World In Search of Our Environmental Future*. He is a Fellow of the New America Foundation, the environment correspondent for The Nation, and a co-founder of the group, Climate Parents. A single father, he lives in San Francisco with his daughter, Chiara, who never fails to make him smile.



Cultivating Spiritual Optimism



KARPAS IS AN ancient way to nurture clear-eyed optimism of the sort we all need today. Long before Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke spoke of “green shoots,” as a way of describing early signs of economic recovery during an economic

downturn, the practice of eating a green vegetable at the Seder helped us to identify signs of renewal, while remaining fully aware of the damages not yet repaired and the long list of challenges ahead. By dipping the greens in a reminder of our tears, we acknowledge that we are far from liberated. Whether we use parsley or potatoes, that bit of vegetable dipped in saltwater and eaten at the beginning of the Seder celebrates the green shoots of our freedom—even though the story of liberation is barely begun.

We always have a choice about how to see the events of our lives and our world—no matter how we feel about them. We can “season” our understanding of these events, much as we season the Karpas with saltwater, and the bitter herbs with the sweet Haroset mixture of apples and nuts. In each case we seek balance, neither becoming bitter about the past nor naive about the future. In each case we use the past and the present to nurture the values which build a better future.

Here’s one spiritual suggestion for you to bring to your Seder:

As you pass the Karpas around the table, ask yourself and those around you where they see evidence of renewal, be it in their own lives, in their families, in the Jewish people; in our kehilla kedusha, our sacred community of Sha’ar Zahav, and in our nation. Remember, these may only be the tiniest shoots, but they count.

As you dip the vegetables in the saltwater, consider the challenges that remain and the people not yet able to participate in the renewal symbolized by the greens we are consuming.

As you eat, reflect on the things you can do to nurture the already present shoots of renewal—personal, communal and national. Reflect also on what you can do for those who don’t

yet experience even those shoots. Help them to realize that we have the freedom and power to make positive changes at any moment in time.

This simple practice can unlock the doors of bitterness without naïveté.

Try it and let me know. It’s an opportunity to cultivate hope, liberate yourself, and help to do the same for others.

SHABBAT RECOVERY

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 7:30 PM



**RABBI CAMILLE SHIRA ANGEL
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Congregation Sha’ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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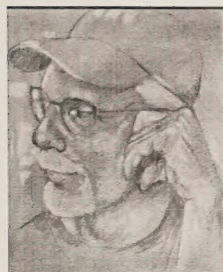
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President's Column



IT WILL BE March when you read this column, but it's January when I'm writing it. It's January 21st to be exact. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Inauguration Day. Although I was watching it live, I also set my DVR to record the inaugural parade and the ceremony of inaugurating the 44th President of the United States for his second term of office. If a moment of the ceremony captured my attention, I wanted to be able to view it again.

And I did. There wasn't one particular moment that prompted me to watch the inauguration again; it was everything about the day. At first I couldn't identify why I wanted to see it a second time, but then I realized the inaugural was so compelling because of all the differences it represented.

The 2013 inauguration recorded on my DVR was amazingly different from other presidential inaugurations recorded in my memory banks. I hadn't yet developed an interest in politics when Harry Truman took the oath in 1949, and was probably too fidgety to sit through either of Eisenhower's inaugurals. But I vividly remember John Kennedy's inauguration in 1961. The inaugural grandstand was an end-sea of white men's faces. I remember the inaugural poet, Robert Frost, whose very name conjures up shades of white.

Spin forward to 2013. The inaugural poet is ironically named Blanco, but he's not a white man from Robert Frost's New England. He's a gay Cuban-American. The jubilant crowd on the Washington Mall is representative of the shades of America we know today. Seated in places of honor on the grandstand are three women Supreme Court Justices. The Cabinet includes women, Latinos, and African Americans. For the first time in history, a president's inaugural address called out for marriage equality. Diversity is no longer a concept; it's part of our country's fabric.

On live TV I heard Richard Blanco read his poem *One Today*. Then I heard it again on the DVR recording and rewound to hear it a third time. "All of us as vital as the one light we move through, the same light on blackboards with

lessons for the day: equations to solve, history to question, or atoms imagined, the 'I have a dream' we keep dreaming...Many prayers, but one light breathing color into stained glass windows..."

His imagery drew my mind to our Sanctuary. One light breathing color, so many unique colors, through our gorgeous stained glass windows. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav did not need help in finding a rainbow of colors. But our spectrum has become even wider as the face of Judaism has changed.

Under the inspired leadership of Rabbi Alexander Schindler, z"l, the Reform movement advocated for gay rights and opened the doors of its rabbinic college to gay rabbis. In 1978 Rabbi Schindler called on the Reform movement to encourage conversion to Judaism.

What differences those two initiatives have had! Reform Judaism has been immeasurably blessed by accepting gay clergy. In addition to training our own Rabbi Angel, Hebrew Union College has ordained quite a number of our members who have changed career paths to become rabbis. Rabbi Schindler's welcoming outreach for those seeking Judaism made it possible for Alex Ingersoll and me to have served as synagogue presidents. Sha'ar Zahav's conversion program has brought many others into the tent of Abraham. Between December and February, we will have welcomed four people into the Covenant. Four in three months!

Think about how unique that statistic makes our congregation. Do other Bay Area synagogues that are two or even five times our size welcome in the stranger as we do? I believe we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Paul Cohen, Rose Katz, Ora Prochovnick and Andrew Ramer who spearhead our conversion program. Their work obviously enhances the participants' spirituality, but it also augments and enhances our congregation. The strangers we welcome in change our face.

Just as the image of presidential inaugurals has changed over the past few decades, so too has the face of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. New, diverse histories have

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Volume 33, issue 3

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

Services

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

Weekly Torah Portion Study, 7:30 pm

Come and Study the Weekly Torah Portion with Daniel Chesir and Rabbi Camille Shira Angel.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Shabbes Beat, 7:30 pm

It's all about that Shabbes groove. Sing, dance, and pray. Joy up, relax, breathe, sway... Join Cantor Sharon and the Shabbes Beat band and chorus at this

monthly rock, jazz, Latin, and blues service and get your Shabbes rest on.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Friday Night Live, 6:00 pm

Come celebrate a Shabbat specially designed for 0 to 6 year-olds. Our FNL service is followed by dinner in the Oneg Room. We will provide pizza (\$2 per slice), and encourage you to bring a vegetarian dish to share with the community as well.

MONDAY, APRIL 1

Yizkor, 10:00 am

All are welcome to join CSZ as we hold Yizkor services, the service of remembrance. This is a beautiful service that is traditionally held on the seventh day of Passover. All are welcome to join the community to say Kaddish and honor your loved ones through the mitzvah of remembering.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Rabbi Rachel Adler Pride Speaker Shabbat Freedom

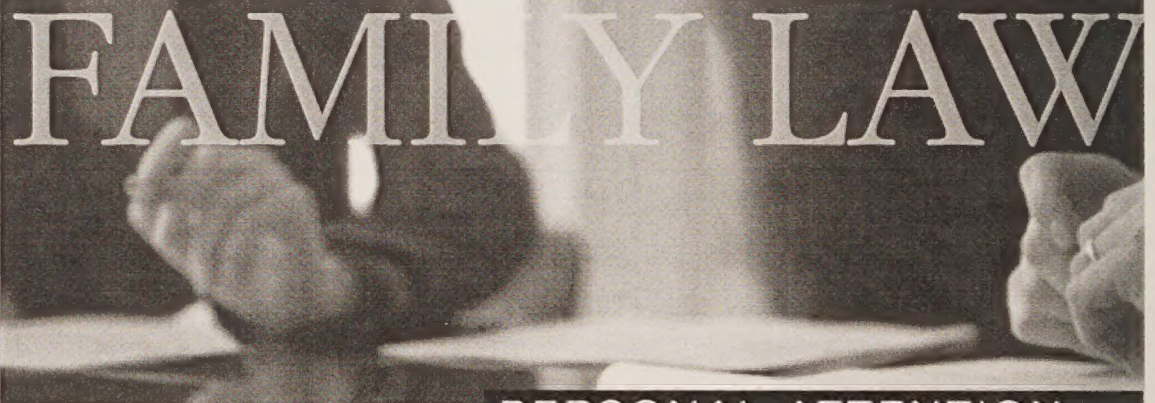
Professor of Jewish Religious Thought and Feminist Studies

Hebrew Union College (HUC-JIR)

"Adler is arguably the leading feminist theologian in the entire world," according to David Ellenson, president of HUC-JIR. "She has taught the Jewish community in virtually an unparalleled way for almost 40 years, from the time of her earliest writings in the 1970s to the present day...many of the changes that have occurred in Jewish life that have allowed the community to be inclusive of women have been a result of Rachel Adler's efforts." Rabbi Rachel Adler is one of the mothers of feminist Jewish theology. Author of numerous articles including "The Jew Who Wasn't There: Halakhah and the Jewish Woman" in 1972 and more recently her 1999 National Jewish Book Award winning *Engendering Judaism*. It is a thrill and a privilege to be able to bring Rabbi Rachel Adler as our Pride Speaker 2013.

PRACTICE AREAS

Divorce
Domestic Partner
Dissolution
Separation
Property & Pension
Distribution
Alimony
Custody
Visitation
Child Support
Restraining Orders
Paternity
Pre-Marital
Agreements
Post-Divorce Disputes
Modification of Orders
Appeals



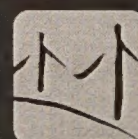
We recognize that a
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Events

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Jennifer Gorovitz, CEO of the Jewish Community Federation, will speak during services, 7:30 pm

Jennifer Gorovitz is the Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Community Federation, and has the distinction of being the first woman CEO among the largest 20 Federations in North America. She has been with the JCF for nearly six years in a number of senior roles. Prior to becoming CEO, Jennifer served as Acting Chief Executive Officer, Chief of Staff, and Director of Funds and Foundations for the Jewish Community Endowment Fund. Jennifer was recently included in The Jewish Daily's "Forward 50" annual list of the top 50 men and women who have made a significant impact in the Jewish community. A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and Stanford University, Jennifer clerked on the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington, DC. She practiced at the law firms of Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison and Coblenz, Patch, Duffy & Morris and the Public Defender's Office of Santa Clara County. Jennifer is a graduate of Harvard Kennedy School Executive Program on Leadership for the 21st Century. Jennifer is a Wexner Heritage alumna, a member of the Tarrytown Group, a member of the Northern California Planned Giving Council, the Council on Foundations Legislative Network and the California State Bar. She has been a contributor and invited to serve on the faculty for the UJC Senior Advisory council of Endowment Executives.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Passover and Family Estrangement: A Workshop for Dealing with Difficult Relationships, 3-5 pm

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and Kim Lezin-Haveson, LCSW

The Passover Seder calls us to commemorate and celebrate; to remember our people's history, our struggles, our oppression and to remind one another of the power of liberation, transformation, and redemption. Relationships change. Healing happens.

Join us in preparation for Passover, as we

frame and host a conversation about family estrangements and help support one another in our journeys toward acceptance. Just as the Haggadah, guides us in telling our master narrative, so let us listen to each other share our personal narrative. \$35.00 and no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Pesach—Congregational 2nd night Seder, 5:00 pm

CSZ's "Home Made" Passover Seder is back for its eighth fabulous year! Celebrate Pesach with the CSZ community at our congregational second-night Seder, led by Cantor Sharon Bernstein. At this year's Seder, as in years past, you will have an opportunity to support MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. If you have the availability, please consider volunteering to help bring this Seder to life.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Where Is Our strength? Bearing Arms In Jewish Thought With Rabbi Shelly Lewis, 7 PM

Sheldon Lewis was born in Chicago and educated at the University of Chicago and the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, where he received his rabbinic ordination. He was a student of Professor Abraham Joshua Heschel and has been active in civil and human rights causes, traveling to the FSU on several occasions on behalf of Soviet Jewry. He served as a US Army chaplain after ordination and spent a year in Vietnam. He is rabbi emeritus of Congregation Kol Emeth in Palo Alto, which he served for thirty-three years. He was deeply involved in interfaith work to promote pluralism, mutual respect, and common cause; and he has been equally committed to nurturing bonds among the streams of Jewish expression. He has had an abiding interest in reconciliation efforts in the Middle East as a supporter of the Open House in Ramle, the Al Amal School near Bethlehem, and Rabbis for Human Rights. He is past president of the Northern California Board of Rabbis, among other positions in the Jewish and interfaith communities. He is the author of *Torah of Reconcilia-*

tion. He is married to Lorri, and they have been blessed with four sons, three daughters-in-law and, so far, six grandchildren.

Music at CSZ

MUSIC IN THE MISHKAN

Sunday, March 17 "British Invasion"

"Euterpe" from Las Musas de Andalucia-
Joachin Turina

Piano Trio-Rebecca Clarke

Vitebsk for piano trio-Aaron Copland

Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 66-Felix

Mendelssohn

All concerts begin at 4:00 p.m., followed by a wine and cheese reception. You can order tickets by calling the office at 415.861.6932

Community

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is co-sponsoring the Nehirim West Retreat is coming up on March 1-3, at Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma. Leaders *(continued on page 14)*

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G-d's Facebook Page



IN THE beginning of 2013, I shut down all my social media. I have never been a huge social media fan, and I was not an excessive user but none the less, to the extent that I did use it, it left me feeling ill at ease. I began missing two profound qualities that seemed to have vanished from my life and most of the people that I knew, the elements of mystery and privacy. None the less, it is a little scary out here in the ether. It raises the question, if a major life event happens and you are not on social media, does it really happen? Without instant mirroring, do we really exist?

So much of what informs my spiritual life, is this idea that there is a division between the sacred and the profane. When it came to social media, what seemed like a fairly banal trend which might be considered profane, had become the medium by which we did most of our communicating and connecting. It has taken on, if not a sacred component in most people's lives, certainly a profound one. However, it really began to feel to me that in the constant overexposure of our lives a real intimacy a, deep intimacy was being compromised.

This isn't to discount the ways in which social media can keep you connected. It is true that for many people who would otherwise be isolated, social media is their channel to the world. It has also been a force in social movements and significant political movements. But, I think if we are honest with ourselves a lot of social media is just a time killer and although there are really moments when it can shower love on a person, it can also become a habit that disconnects us as much as we are logged in trying to connect.

I think about this issue a lot, this virtual culture that we live in that has gone from being a fad, to the norm, to pretty much a compulsion. I think about it because, this is the world my students will ALWAYS KNOW. I think about this, because an unwritten but huge

component of my job is to try and enrich the spiritual life of youth. I think, like so many questions in post-modern Judaism, it is a both/and. So it raises the question for me, How can I help my student's find a deeper spiritual life in between screen time? How can I help my students connect with G-d?

This is a very complex question, because the notion of G-d alone has gotten so complicated to translate. In our desire as educators to resist being pedantic about G-d, G-d has become a bit of a free for all. G-d is a G-d concept or to quote one my amazing students (who shall remain nameless but has been known to wear a glasses/ moustache combo) G-d has no gender and may be a cloud like formation in the sky. Like so much of our youth. G-d was simpler back in the day (when we would walk thirty miles in the snow to watch the Partridge family).. When I was 11, G-d was very clear cut because of two important influences on my life, my older sister (who had become orthodox) and Judy Blume. Based on what I had learned by these two teachers, G-d was the force that would compel me to lead a life rich in mitzvot and G-d was going to be my sounding board to help me get me through puberty. G-d. I wish it was that simple.....now.

Are you there G-d, it's me Rebecca? How do I help my students deepen their spiritual lives and find their own relationships to G-d when it is not accessible on a twitter feed?

I want to be clear, that it certainly is not a requirement of Beit Sefer to have a belief in G-d, but I would like my students to have a medium for their spirituality. I want them to be connected to their own inner voice, to their community and yes to G-d, (if that is their truth).

Clearly this trend or social phenomenon that compels us to say, look at every element of my life, in pictures, status updates and tweets comes from a deep desire to be seen, to be noticed to feel like we are not alone in this great thing we call life. For myself, however that is where G-d

can come in. What works for me about the relationship I have created with G-d, is I can't photo shop my image. I can't cultivate a picture perfect, polished word smithed version of Rebecca. It is just me, bad hair days and all standing up once again on Yom Kippur, beating my chest and saying, "Okay this year, I promise I will get that whole Lashon Hora thing right"..

If we are increasingly moving into a world where our youth will be constantly manipulating their image, think showing up for a friend is hitting a like button, how will they ever have the experience of standing naked with their soul, with themselves and with G-d?

We will have to teach them. We will have to teach our youth, that there is a time to have actual connection and I am going to go so far as to say that actual connection has greater value then virtual connection. And although a thousand likes on an update are amazing, they will never take the place of a hug or mean you shouldn't show up with chicken soup. We will have to teach them that they are entitled to their privacy and there are truly times when they get to stand stripped of all pretense, and they are not alone (even if no one is watching). We have to teach them that there are things that they get to keep deep down in their nefesh, (soul) and that they don't have to share them with anyone, and sometimes it is better or richer if you don't. We will have to teach them to wait. Waiting is a very Jewish game. We have to teach them all of these things face to face, perhaps on Shabbat when we have turned off all technology and then let the questions simmer for awhile. We have to teach them that some of the best answers are worth waiting for.

We have to teach them that G-d is not as accessible as a key stroke and some of your deepest moments are going to be looking right in the eye of something. AND in order to have this presence, you have to look up, out and passed a screen. Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav loved to daven (continued on page 10)

Introducing the B'nei Mitzvah

Delia Anderson-Colson



Delia Anderson-Colson will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on March 9. She began Hebrew School at BSPM

with the encouragement of her late father Elliot Klein. Though he passed away when Delia was 9, she continued her studies with the encouragement of her non-Jewish moms, the support of the CSZ community, and the help of Elliot's long-time partner Steve Weitz. Delia attends St. Paul's in Oakland, and

lives with her parents Susan Colson and Maureen Anderson, and her older sister Zoe, in Oakland's Dimond District. Delia plays trap drums, is a proud member of the Impact undefeated soccer team, and enjoys reading, snowboarding, and art.

Johanna, Liam and Sydney Klaiman

Johanna, Liam and Sydney Klaiman will be called to the Torah for their B'nei Mitzvah on April 13, 2013. Theirs will be Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's first triplet b'nei mitzvah. They have been members of the congregation since their birth.

They attended many Shabbat services and our synagogue is one of the few places in San Francisco where babies are welcome on Friday nights!

Now they are all seventh graders at Brandeis Hillel Day School. Liam's favorite subject is social studies. Johanna enjoys writing. Sydney likes Jewish studies and English.

In his free time, Liam plays baseball



and travel ice hockey. Johanna and Sydney play futsal and soccer. Sydney plays bass clarinet and piano. Johanna plays the trombone and Liam plays the trumpet. Liam and Sydney are devoted to their dog, Dusty. Johanna loves singing and musical theater.

They all enjoy family road trips and going to the east coast to visit their

cousins. Liam would like to return to Washington, D.C. to visit all the Smithsonian museums. Johanna wants to leave the continent. Sydney will go anywhere!

Their parents, Mark Klaiman and Virginia Donohue, and their younger brother, Quinn, are very proud of them for working so hard to prepare for their b'nei mitzvah. The entire family would like to thank their mentors Gabriel Lambert, Fox Frohlich and Daniel Chesir for all their help in preparing for this day. They would also like to thank Ora Prochovnick, Rebecca Weiner, Cantor Bernstein, Rabbi Angel and everyone else who helped make this day possible.

Gabriella (Bria) Odegard



Gabriella (Bria) Odegard loves family tradition, old & new, and like her sister Emmet before her she will be called to the

Torah at Sha'ar Zahav as a Bat Mitzvah in April. Bria is looking forward to celebrating her Bat Mitzvah with her family, friends and Sha'ar Zahav tribe on April 6th, 2013.

One of the family traditions Bria embraced was attending Jewish summer camp at Olin-Sang Ruby Union

Institute in Oconomowoc, WI like her grandfather, mother and sister. Much of her pride in being Jewish comes from her experience at Sha'ar Zahav and her time at OSRUI reinforced this sense of community, heritage and pride.

In choosing a mentor she again followed tradition and asked to work with the same mentor her sister had. She has had a wonderful time working with Ron Lazell who has challenged and inspired her.

Bria has attended Spanish immersion programs in San Francisco since pre-school & continues her bilingual education at James Lick Middle School. Bria is an excellent student and enjoys

many extracurricular activities. Bria studies dance & taiko at Dance Mission & static trapeze at the Circus Center. Bria's volunteer work this year has included working at the SF Food Bank, serving food to hungry souls with Curry Without Worry at the Civic Center and is working with her father on cleaning some of her favorite beaches on the coast between Pacifica and San Francisco.

You can always pick out Bria in a group photo. She is the one with the mischievous gleam in her eye and her own special sense of style. She is a loyal friend and a loving family member and her joyfulness is contagious.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					19 ADAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	20 ADAR 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:00 am Meditation Chavurah 10:15 am Shabbat Service 7:00 pm Havdalah Chavurah
21 ADAR	22 ADAR 7:30 pm Torah Study	23 ADAR 7:00 pm Climate Change Program	24 ADAR	25 ADAR	26 ADAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	27 ADAR 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service, Delia Anderson- Colson bat mitzvah
28 ADAR	29 ADAR 7:30pm Torah Study	1 NISAN	2 NISAN 6:45 pm Va'ad meeting	3 NISAN	4 NISAN 7:30 pm Shabbes Beat	5 NISAN 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
6 NISAN 4:00 pm Music in the Mishkan	7 NISAN 7:30 pm Torah Study	8 NISAN	9 NISAN	10 NISAN	11 NISAN 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	12 NISAN 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
13 NISAN 3:00 pm Family Estrangement group	14 NISAN	15 NISAN 5:00 pm Congregational Second Seder Office Closed	16 NISAN	17 NISAN	18 NISAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	19 NISAN 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
20 NISAN						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	21 NISAN 10:00 am Yizkor 7:30 pm Torah Study Office closed	22 NISAN	23 NISAN	24 NISAN	25 NISAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	26 NISAN 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Bat mitzvah of Gabriella Odegaard 7:00 pm Havdalah chavurah
	1	2	3	4	5	6
27 NISAN 3:00 pm Bikkur Cholim program	28 NISAN 7:30 pm Torah Study	29 NISAN	30 NISAN 6:45 pm Va'ad meeting	1 IYYAR 7:00 pm Rabbi Sheldon Lewis program	2 IYYAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	3 IYYAR 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service B'nei Mitzvah of Liam, Sydney and Johanna Klaiman
	7	8	9	10	11	12
4 IYYAR	5 IYYAR 7:30 pm Torah Study	6 IYYAR	7 IYYAR	8 IYYAR	9 IYYAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Beat	10 IYYAR 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
	14	15	16	17	18	19
11 IYYAR	12 IYYAR 7:30 pm Torah Study	13 IYYAR	14 IYYAR	15 IYYAR	16 IYYAR 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	17 IYYAR 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
	21	22	23	24	25	26
18 IYYAR	19 IYYAR 7:30 pm Torah Study	20 IYYAR				
	28	29	30			

Announcements

We are happy to announce that Brad Watson has joined the staff of the Congregation as our new Administrative Assistant, as of January 28th. He will be working with Regina in the front office to provide support to the synagogue. He replaces Shaun Hannan who has left for another job opportunity. Brad has been an assistant at two other organizations over the past twelve years—The State Bar of



California, and KQED—so he comes to us with valuable experience from working with numerous members and volunteers. Brad's

Bachelor's degree is from the University of Kansas where he majored in psychology with a minor in communications. In his free time, he studies interior architecture and design at UC

Berkeley Extension, and at home can usually be found doing something that involves a paint brush, a hammer or a measuring tape. We wish Brad the best success at the Congregation! You can reach him via email: brad@shaarzhav.org

Interfaithfamily Website

Have you ever wondered about how other folks are navigating the many issues that come up for discussion and decisions in interfaith families? Interested in how famous interfaith couples are relating to their dual heritages? Interfaithfamily has a unique free website that publishes twice a month with information on Jewish holidays, referral sources and personal stories. The editor

is always looking for new perspectives and personal experiences to share with their readers. Find out all about unique events such as the celebration this year of THANKSGIVUKKAH – the only time in our lifetimes that Thanksgiving and Hanukkah will coincide. Receiving the Interfaithfamily bi-weekly e-mail is easy. Just sign up on the website of Interfaithfamily.com

Transition

It is with regret that I announce my resignation as Editor of the Jewish Gaily Forward. I would like to thank Regina Wurst and Jonathan Wieder for their patience, dedication, and help. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help with the Jewish Gaily Forward, please contact Regina Wurst at the CSZ office. —*Francisco Caravayo*

President's Column

(continued from page 3)

become part of our fabric. Our diversity also includes a significant number of members who are primarily heterosexual, but who recognize the qualities and values that are the foundation of our congregation. We are the full rainbow of gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity that was present at Mt. Sinai. We have many colors coming through our stained glass windows. The goals we strive to achieve as a community are more attainable thanks to the new energy we have gained from our wider tent.

As Richard Blanco wrote in the last stanza of his inaugural poem: "All of us—facing the stars hope—a new constellation waiting for us to map it, waiting for us to name it—together."

G-d's Facebook Page

(continued from page 6)

(pray) among the trees. For him, the deepest relationship with G-d was found in the quiet, nestled between the trees in the beauty of nature. Nahman encouraged his followers to practice "solitude." Solitude is defined by Nahman to mean that a person sets aside at least an hour or more during which he is alone in a room or in the field so that he can converse with his Maker in secret, entreating G-d to bring him nearer to G-d's service. This technological world we now inhabit is rarely quiet, seldom still. I long to give my students the curiosity to seek this stillness. I pray for them to have moments where they know that the most important window they can open will be the one to their soul.

Our Legacy Community

BY IRENE OGUS

We have now concluded the first two years of the Community Legacy Project—part of the Jewish Community Federation's partnership with our synagogue and 16 other shuls and organizations. During this time we were challenged to meet our own goals of obtaining Letters of Intent to leave a bequest to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Our first year goal of 30 was easily reached, and exceeded, and we were awarded a \$6000 bonus. Our second year goal of an additional 30 has also been reached, and exceeded, and we will receive an additional \$6000 bonus. To date we have 70 signed Letters of Intent—and many notifications from those who tell us they have named us in their wills, but have not sent us an LOI. The generosity of our members is heart-warming and will surely provide for our congregation well into the future.

Our efforts have been extolled by many in the Federation leadership and we are a shining example to many other congregations. Our members should indeed be very proud of our accomplishments.

Although our partnership with Federation is now officially over—we still have many members and former members to reach out to and this project will continue indefinitely. I would like us to achieve another 30 LOIs during 2013 to bring our total up to 100. Will you please help us do that? The Letter of intent is a very simple form—it takes about 1 minute for me to send it to you and 2 minutes for you to complete. You can e-mail me at Irene.ogus@gmail.com.

The following are the names of the members of our Legacy Society who have submitted a Letter of Intent:

Rabbi Camille Angel
Cecilia Marianne Balin
Jesse (Shai) Begley
Dan Bellm & Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Wayne Bender
Ray Bernstein
Francisco Caravayo & Jonathan Strober
James Carlson
Michael Chertok
Daniel Chesir
Ellie Cohen & Michal Goralsky
Paul Cohen
Aaron Cooper & Eric Keitel
Rob Daroff
Steve Elman
Jonathan Funk
David Gellman
Avraham Giannini
Allan Gold
Alan Gordon
Sarita Groisser
Marjorie Hilsenrad
Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum
Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden
Batya Kalis
Rose Katz
Tom Lakritz
Walter Leiss
Shoshana Levenberg
Nancy Levin
Ron Lezell
Deborah Levy
Jeffrey Lilly
Patricia Lin
Marc Lipschutz
Laura Lowe
Eileen Lynette
Mark Mackler
Paul Margolis
Steve Mazer
Richard Meyerson
Jerry Nodiff
Irene Ogus
Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz
Ora Prochovnik & Rena Frantz
Andrew Ramer
Mike Rankin, M.D.
Gerald Rosenstein
Beth Ross & Laura Trupin
Sharyn Saslafsky
Karen Schiller
Andrew Schwartz
Arthur Slepian & Gerry Llamado
William "Bill" Smith
Charles Spiegel
Howard Steiermann
Rob Tat
Susan Tubbesing

Deborah Udin
Dana Vinicoff
Larry Wexler
Gary Winter
Dennis R. Ybarra
Frank Yellin & Mark Showalter
Jonathan Zimman
Mike Zimmerman
Ami Zusman

We will continue to reach out to our membership asking for a bequest to the Our Legacy Community campaign.

If you'd like to meet with a member of the Legacy committee to complete your own "Letter of Intent," or if you've already remembered us in your will and want to let us know, please contact me—Irene Ogus, irene.ogus@gmail.com

Forward to our 2nd year goal!

Irene

AIDS Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Don
Albert, Allan Craig, Nick Papadopoulos,
David Glassberg.
in memory of Ron Wilmot.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Eli
Weinstein.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in
honor of Klezmer Shabbat

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Siddur Bookplates

Allan Berenstein in honor of Ron Lezell's
60th birthday.

in memory of cousin Ellen Albin.

in memory of my Zayde AJ Berenstein
in memory of Harold Schwartz.

James Carlson in honor of Ron Lezell's
milestone birthday.

Hershey Hirschkop in memory of Phyllis
R. Abadzoglou.

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in
memory of Doris Balin.
in memory of Doris Ingersoll.

in memory of Viola Ingersoll.
in honor of Ron Lezell's birthday.
ten bookplates in memory of Fred
Tannenbaum.

Susan Lubeck & Richard Weiner

Rabbi Julius and Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

Evan Arnold-Gordon in honor of
Jonathan Funk.

James Carlson in honor of Judy Huerta's
Welcoming

In honor of the birth of Blake Lynaugh

In honor of the birth of Alexandra
Boxer

Marcia & Barnett Eskin in memory of
Rabbi Julius Funk.

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in
memory of Pearl Funk.

Jonathan Funk in appreciation of Sharyn
Saslafsky, Nancy Meyer, Karen Schiller
for Cantor Unplugged IV

in honor of Cantor Bernstein, Carolyn
Reiser, Cantor Leigh Korn, Aaron

Danzig, Ariel Bernstein Spagnolo
for Cantor Unplugged IV

in memory of Bernice Wiseman.

in memory of Minnie Wiseman.

Batya Kalis in honor of Cantor
Unplugged.

Ron & Sharon Lewkowitz in memory of
Pearl & Julius Funk.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Doris
Balin, Forrest Kincade, Chuck Norton.
in memory of Cheryl Orvis, Bill Ashley
Dobbin, Ziggy Gimnicher, Jason Gabor.
in appreciation of Shaun Hannan

Michael Chertok for volunteer
management software.

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman in honor
of Ron Lezell's birthday.

Steven Elman in honor of Ron Lezell's
birthday.

Herbert Felsenfeld in support of the
wonderful teaching of Rabbi and
Daniel

Allan Gold in honor of Ron Lezell's 60th
birthday.

Noelle Herrnberger

Bill Hirsh in honor of Ron Lezell's
birthday.

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum
for Klezmer Shabbat

Naomi Jatovsky in honor of Ron Lezell.

Josh Kline in honor of Jim Acerra.

Nancy Meyer in memory of Marilyn
O'Keeffe

in honor of Ron Lezell's birthday.

Jeanette Nichols in memory of Isa
Cymrot Wu.

in memory of Phyllis Mintzer.

Liz Noteware

Irene Ogus in honor of Ron Lezell's 60th
birthday.

Jeffrey Piade in honor of Ron Edelman.

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz in honor
of Ron Lezell

Judy Porat

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in
honor of Ron Lezell's 60th birthday.

Carol Roos in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah
of Lois Scott and Bernie Choden.

Hilda Rosenfeld in memory of Rubin
Rothenberg.

Sharyn Saslafsky in honor of Ron Lezell's
Big Birthday.

Karen Schiller in honor of Ron Lezell's
birthday.

Yolande Schneeman in honor of Paul
Cohen.

Stephen Shotland

Richard Sinkoff in honor of Paul Cohen.
in honor of Irene Ogus.

Lonnie Weiss

Steve Weitz & David Hoffman in hono.
of Ron Lezell's Big Birthday.

Andrew & Michele Williamson in
memory of Jerry Davis and Leon
LeMeteyer

Ami Zusman in memory of her mother,
Hilda Saperstein.

in memory of her father, Benjamin
Herzl Saperstein.

High Holy Day Pledges

Roy Bateman

Lucy Bernholz & Paula Fleisher

Susan Bluer

Patricia Byers

Ali Cannon & Jessica Israel Cannon

Lisa Danzig in honor of Jerry Rosenstein

Donald Fischer

Dana Goldman

Sarita Groisser

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum

Elana Jacobs in memory of Melvin
Josephs

Susan Lubeck & Richard Weiner

Andrew Mann

Craig Mautner

Richard Mehler

Arthur Meirson

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch
with all members of
the CSZ family
whenever there are
occasions of joy or sadness
in your lives.

Where there is a death
in the family, please call
me as soon as possible.

We very much want to
be there with you
at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille
Shira Angel*

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz
Beth Saban
Susan Shalit
Steven Shotland
Jeffrey Shuman
Robert Tat
Kelly Thiemann
Jon Uytterlinde
Dana Vinicoff
Debra Wilensky

Walter Leiss High Holiday Oneg Fund

Walter Leiss

Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Phyllis
Mintzer, Marilyn O'Keeffe, Elijah
Silverrod-MacLachlan.
in memory of Aaron Nacamulli.

Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden

Irving Mintzer & Amber Leonard in
honor of George and in memory of
Phyllis Mintzer.

Ami Zusman in honor of Amalia Cymrot-
Wu's Bat Mitzvah.

Music in the Mishkan Donations

Batya Kalis
Rose Katz
Ron Lezell
Irene Ogus
John Weatherman & Louis Kelsh
Baird Mary Ann Whaley

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jessica Alexandra
Marianne Balin in memory of Doris Balin
Allan Berenstein in honor of Batya Kalis
in memory of Mara Forsythe Crane
Avraham Giannini
Batya Kalis in appreciation of Rabbi
Angel
Francisco Caravayo in honor of Rose
Katz, Andrew Ramer, and Rabbi Pam
Frydman for their gentle and wise
mentoring, and with thanks to Rabbi
Angel for her gift to me of Tu B'Shevat
Steven Wiesner

Rainbow Fund

Ali Cannon & Jessica Israel Cannon
Rick Crane

Jonathan Funk
Sara Haber & Beth Sousa
Jonathan Kaplan & Jacqueline Wong
Erika Katske & Rabbi Reuben Zellman
Roberta Lawrence & Steven
Andrew Schwartz
Jon Uytterlinde
Larry Wexler

December 7/8

Bimah flowers generously sponsored
by **Norma and Alex Menchavez** in
honor of their granddaughter, *Maxima
Alexandra's bat mitzvah.*

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by
**Andrea Guerra and Shoshana Leven-
berg** In honor of all those grand folks
who helped us so lovingly in the house of
setting bones, particularly Julia, Lydia,
David, Barb, Andrea, Sara, Beth, Rena,
Dawn, Harv, Sarita, Kelly, and Patty,
Howard Steiermann and his partner,
Leonel, Rose Katz and Karen Schiller.

Kiddush luncheon on Saturday gener-
ously sponsored by **Morris & Marcia
Lang Schertz** in honor of their grand-
daughter, *Maxima's, bat mitzvah.*

14/15

Bimah flowers generously sponsored
by the **Cymrot-Wu family** in loving
memory of *Isa Leah.*

Kleznukeh Shabbat and Oneg gener-
ously sponsored by **Martin Tannen-
baum and Alex Ingersoll** in memory of
Larry Tannenbaum.

21/22

Bimah flowers and Oneg generously
sponsored by **Judy Huerta and Mar-
jorie Hilsenrad** in honor of *Judy's wel-
coming into the Covenant, a long and
beautiful journey...*

January

11/12

Bimah flowers generously sponsored
by **Jeffrey Lilly** in memory of his
mother, *Dolores Hulsey*

Saturday Kiddush luncheon gener-
ously sponsored by **Barbara Cymrot
and Dafna Wu** in honor of *Amalia
Cymrot-Wu's bat mitzvah.*

25/26

Bimah flowers sponsored by **The Rabbi
Julius and Pearl Funk Musical Events
Fund** in honor of *Cantor Unplugged*
Friday Oneg generously sponsored by
the **family and friends of Jonathan
Lorenzo Yorba** in honor of his wel-
coming.

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 5)

and teachers include Torah teacher Zvi Bellin, PhD, Dr. Ilana Scherer, musician Aaron Danzig, Rabbis Deb Kolodny and David Dunn Bauer, photographer Erica Mainshine, outdoorsman Sam Goldman, filmmaker Jeffrey Braverman, activist Jordan Aiken, and Nehirim founder Jay Michaelson. Bring your CSZ hevre and come play and relax for the weekend. Go to www.nehirim.org/west to register, and contact David Bauer at david@nehirim.org with any questions. Financial aid is available.

Announcements

Programming and civil dialogue on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict—Are you interested?

The CSZ Middle East Dialogue and Programming Committee (formerly the Follow Up to the Israel Survey Committee) creates programs at Sha'ar Zahav that speak to our members' diverse perspectives on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and include civil dialogue. We're planning to do up to five programs in the coming year and we're looking for a few new members to work with us. We want to maintain a balance of perspectives both on the committee and in our programming.

Here's what's involved: The group meets for about one and a half hours usually once a month on a weeknight. We each then take on one of the discrete tasks needed to organize the events, which might include contacting speakers, coordinating with CSZ staff, doing publicity, or helping set up on the day of the event. Committee members need to be comfortable and skilled at interacting with a diverse group of people (in terms of their politics on the issues). They need to be able to support (attend, help set up, publicize, etc) programs that reflect the full diversity of views

held by our congregants even when the views expressed in these programs are ones they may strongly disagree with. They should have a strong interest in promoting a safe space to engage with others in our community for discussion.

Despite the challenging and serious nature of the issues, and our diversity in views, we have a good time together, and benefit in so many ways from our involvement. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Terry Fletcher at gillianf19@gmail.com or 510-859-3719—by Nancy Levin

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Why I Do What I Do: our Members talk about the Mitzvah of Bikkur Cholim, 3–5 pm

Rabbis Angel and Eric Weiss will lead an informative session which will teach us about the traditions associated with and the practice of *bikkur cholim*. We will have the opportunity to learn from them and a panel of congregation members who have related experiences to share with us. The mitzvah of *bikkur cholim* is one of the most important obligations as well as satisfying duties we can perform. Understandably, many people are intimidated by the thought of visiting persons who are ill or otherwise distressed because of uncertainty about how to behave in such situations. This program will be designed to address those concerns as well as inspire us. Don't miss an opportunity to learn about the mitzvah of *bikkur cholim* from a group of true mitzvah *mayvins*.

Chavurot

Team Chaverim.

Do you want to meet new people? Tell others what you love about Sha'ar Zahav? Help our community to strengthen and grow? Volunteer without a huge time commitment? Take on an important synagogue task that can be done on your own schedule, even late at night if that's when you have time? If this sounds like you then join our new "Team Chaverim" of Sha'ar Zahav ambassadors. We are a new group born out of the Membership Task Force committed to reaching out to those who have already expressed interest in our community, but are not yet members. This is not advanced marketing or sales, you simply

need to be friendly. Want to learn more, contact Nancy Levin ndl123@comcast.net or Ruth Bernstein ruthmbern@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Havdallah Chavurah at CSZ, 7–8:30 pm

Come join us in the sanctuary as we end Shabbat and begin a new week together. We will do havdallah, and in the coming months we will listen to stories, dance with Jewish dance teacher Bruce Bierman, and listen to poetry. This chavurah is for people of all ages, so bring your family and friends. It's also a potluck, so please bring your favorite snack food, savory or sweet. We look forward to being with you.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Meditation Chavurah, 10 am

All are welcome to join us at our monthly meeting of the meditation chavurah. We will be gathering in the reception area at Sha'ar Zahav about 10:00 am, and will walk to the nearby home of a member to sit in a lovely, peaceful setting. A typical gathering includes a short and longer silent sit, chanting, prayer, and a short teaching. For more information, contact the office, or Sarita at saritaftit@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 6:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 6:00 PM

East Bay Chavurah

Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah, held the second Friday of every month. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30, adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. To RSVP or host a future event, or get more information, please contact Jessica Israel Cannon at jisrael68@yahoo.com.

Meetings

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 13 AND APRIL 10, 6:45 PM

Va'ad Meeting

All are welcome to attend and listen to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's monthly Board meeting.

Condolences

Our condolences to Alan Ferrara on the loss of his cousin, Brandon Ferrara.

Our condolences to Ina Turpen Fried on the loss of her great-aunt, Lilo Schaefer.

Our condolences to Lauren Augusta on the death of her father, George Augusta.

Our condolences to Jon Uytterlinde on the death of his mother, Miep Uytterlinde.

Our condolences to Terry Fletcher on the death of her friend, Jon Fromer.

Our condolences to Elana Jacobs on the death of her grandfather, Melvin Josephs.

Our condolences to Rick Crane on the death of his niece Mara Forsythe-Crane.

Our condolences to Jonathan Pannor on the death of his father, Reuben Pannor.

Our condolences to Jessica Israel, Ali and Raffi Cannon on the death of

their father, father-in-law and grandfather, Alan Sumner Israel.

Naches

Mazel tov to Ina and AJ Turpen Fried whose son Harvey Ryan Turpen Fried was born Saturday, December 29

Mazel Tov to Amalia Cymrot- Wu on her bat mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to Judith Huerta on her welcoming into the Covenant.

Mazel Tov to Jonathan Lorenzo Yorba on his welcoming into the Covenant.

Mazel Tov to Wendy Brummer on her welcoming into the Covenant.

Mazel Tov to Tony Enriquez on his welcoming into the Covenant.

Member Yahrzeits

March


- 6 Pearl Lewin
- 7 Isabel Fishman
- 8 Seth Charney
- 16 Theodore Mendonca Jr.
- 16 Jamie Rosen
- 21 Rabbi Sanford Lowe
- 23 Noah Nacamulli
- 23 Paul Nemrow
- 28 Neill Rosen
- 26 Michael Lipson
- 31 James Harris Freedgood
- 31 Marvin Steele

April

- 1 Adam Harris
- 2 Ronald Gertz
- 3 Abraham Cohen
- 6 Dennis Mitchell
- 21 Robert Sterman
- 23 Michael Randall
- 24 Norma Faini-Pick

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Siddur Sha'ar Zahav

A Shabbat, Weekday and Festival prayerbook
for people of all sexual and gender identities

Bring a piece of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav home with this beautifully designed egalitarian siddur, filled with words written by members of our congregation. A book to treasure, you will turn to its pages for Shabbat kiddush, for memorial prayers, for times of happiness and sadness. Even when you can't make it to services, you will feel our community singing through these pages.

Members, order your siddur for just \$36 plus tax.

Non-members pay \$50 plus tax.

Available by contacting the CSZ office

(415-861-6932) or get instant gratification by ordering it online at www.siddurshaarzahav.com